GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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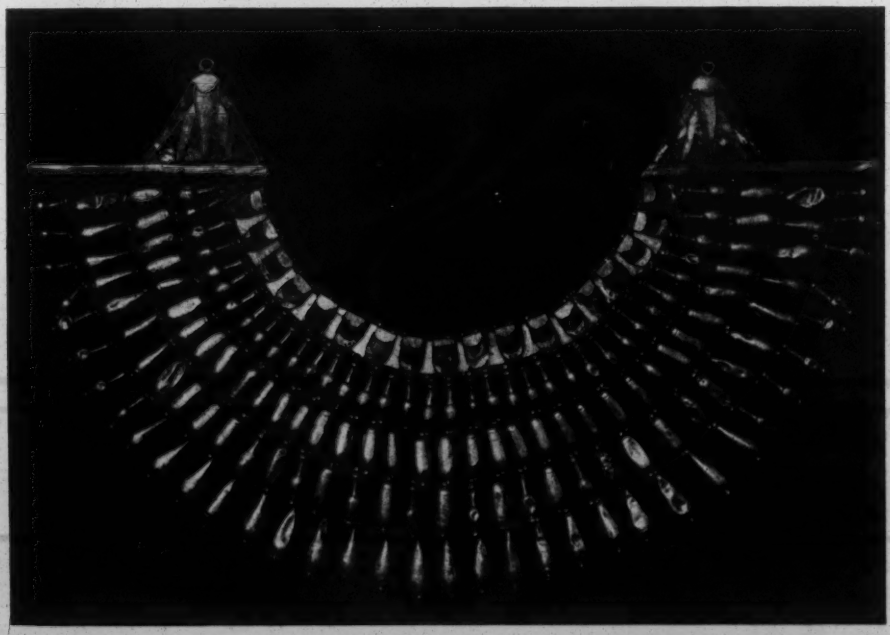

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GOLD NECKLACE FOUND IN THE TOMB OF QUEEN TIYI

The lightness and grace of the jewelry of ancient Egyptian royal ladies is admired by craftsmen of today and many designs have been copied by modern makers.

DO YOU WISH YOUR BULLETINS CONTINUED?

Requests for the Geographic News Bulletin must be renewed if you asked for them last April. If you desire the Bulletins continued please notify The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., promptly. The blank following Bulletin No. 2 may be used.

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The Danube: Main Street of Middle Europe

ONE of the most hopeful signs that Central Europe is on the road to better economic conditions is the report that Danube shipping is increasing.

Economically the Danube is to the landlocked nations of Europe what the Mediterranean is to the countries of Southern Europe. Once the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, later the path for conquering hordes of Huns, Slavs, and Magyars, now the commercial Main Street of Central Europe, the Danube may claim to be the most important river of Europe, though it is exceeded by the Volga in length.

Course Marked by Human Contrasts

Human activity along the Danube's course attains extremes even more marked than the contrasts along bizarre Broadway, New York. Its waters saw the revels of Vienna give way to destitution and they flow by flat rocks on which Hungarian women pound their clothes with wooden mallets and bear them away in tubs on their heads. They pass mills like those of Minneapolis, bear vessels like those on the Hudson, and turn boat-borne water wheels to which peasants bring grain in primitive ox-carts with even the wheels kept in place by wooden pins.

The river halves Budapest and courses by busy Belgrade where it receives the waters of the Save. It carriers barges on which families live as they do on canal boats. Grim castles, great estates, and tiny cottages stand along its banks.

Scenery is Diverse

Scenically the Danube possesses variety almost as infinite. Rising in the Black Forest, some of its waters seep through underground fissures to a stream of the Rhine basin. Sometimes the river is pressed between high hills. Smaller craft appear on its waters in Bavaria. In Austria it splits into many arms and forms a whirlpool. In Hungarian plains it sprawls wide, receiving many important branches, remnant of a prehistoric inland sea. It resumes a wild torrential aspect again when it pierces the Kazan defile and the Iron Gates. It receives nearly as many tributaries as there are days in the year and drains an area almost equivalent to that of Egypt.

Along the steep right bank of the Kazan defile can be traced a road built by Trajan early in the second century. Not until recently has the construction of a modern road made the defile passable upon either bank.

Recognition of the international importance of the Danube was attested by placing it under a commission in 1856, and further provisions regarding it are contained in subsequent treaties, including that of Versailles in 1919.

Bulletin No. 1, April 23, 1923.

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A YOUNG ELEPHANT IN TYPICAL ELEPHANT COUNTRY

This is a new baby elephant, only 3 or 4 years old, but already able to take care of himself. The mother has fled but the youngster is not sure whether to follow her example.

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Where the Elephants Come From

"PAPA, where do the elephants come from?"

Anyboy is apt to propound this question to Anyfather when spring brings the circus to town.

Showmen prefer the Indian elephant to the African on the score of disposition, but there is no more loving mother than the African female, for she never discards her young. It is quite common to see her lunging through the Rhodesian jungle, followed by three of her babies, nine, six, and three years old.

Elephant Hunting Most Dangerous

Africa, of course, is the hunter's paradise and there the elephant is more apt to be shot than captured and tamed. Of the endless variety of game hunting, the pursuit of the elephant is deemed the most dangerous. In British territory a license costs $125 to shoot four of the beasts. The hunter starts out with a retinue of hundreds of natives who closely scan the ground for "spoor" and when it is apparent that a herd is near, the excitement becomes intense.

A huge bull of about four tons with a grand pair of tusks is sighted. One shot in exactly the right spot (just back of the shoulder) will bring him down. Although the most short-sighted animal in the world, he charges in fury if the hunter has been unlucky, and in a few brief moments the valiant crowd has fled in terror. If a lucky shot, the hunter has three or four hundred dollars' worth of ivory, and the ecstatic army of hungry savages devours the carcass, all that cannot be eaten at the time being carried back to the village of huts, to rejoice the hearts (or rather the stomachs) of the women and children.

Elephant hunting in Burma and in India takes different forms. In India great long V-shaped stockades are built, the arms of which are sometimes a mile long. The elephants are driven into the large opening, little realizing that they are walking into a trap. They are gradually driven down toward the apex of the V, where they are forced through a gate into a big pen.

How Lights Aid Capture

In Burma instead of a great, flaring V of powerful posts planted in the ground, there are two converging rows of lights fastened in trees. The hunting is done at night. As the elephants are maneuvered into the broad opening between the outer ends of the rows of lights, another row is thrown across the opening, and the elephants retreat farther down into the V, getting just as far away from the lights as possible. Then another row is thrown across the opening, and this in turn is succeeded by other lines, the elephants constantly retreating from the lights and finally finding themselves at the apex, with the choice of entering the small stockade or breaking through the cordon of lights. The former seems the lesser of the two evils to the majority of them.

Once inside the stockade two trained elephants draw up alongside the beast to be captured, one on each side, and hold him between them until a man loops a

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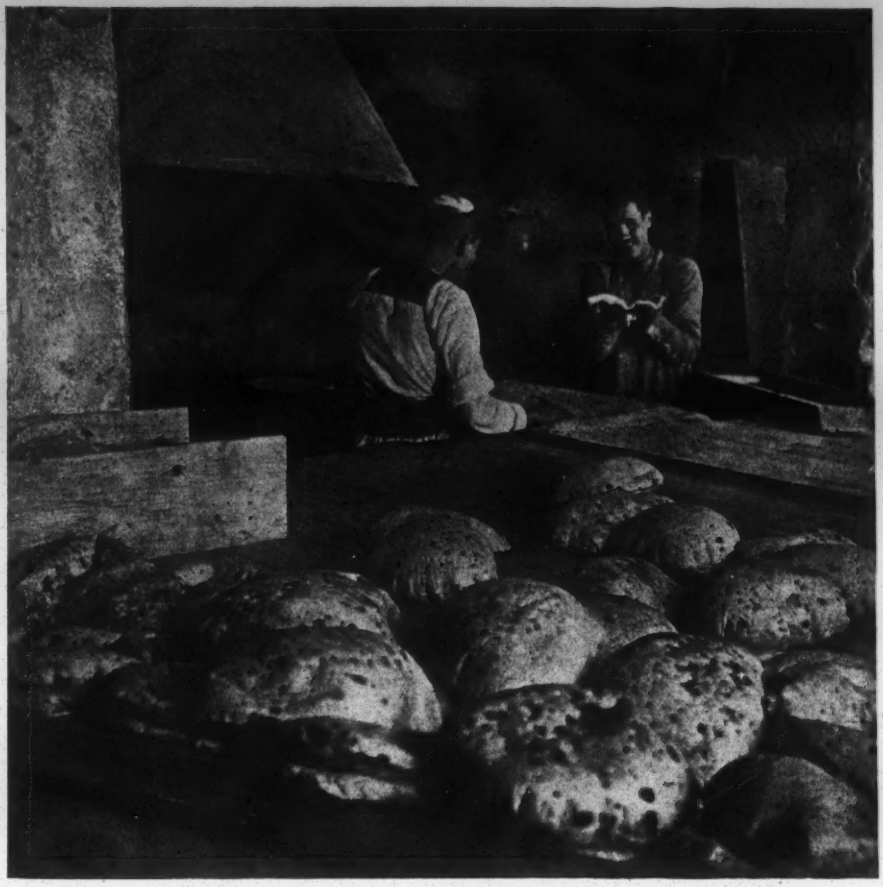

Photograph and copyright by Keystone View Co.

A NATIVE BAKER AT WORK: ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT (See Bulletin No. 4)

The Egyptian baker's aim is to get the biggest possible loaf out of the smallest possible amount of flour, with the result that the bread of the Nile Valley is largely a hole wrapped in a crust. For further pictures and text on modern Egypt, see "Along the Nile, Through Egypt and the Sudan," by Frederick Simpich, in the "National Geographic Magazine" for October, 1922.

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Atlantic in Endless War Against Coast

THE washing away by the sea of land worth millions of dollars on the coast of New Jersey, pointed to recently in the annual report of the director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, draws attention to the battle waged year in and year out between sea and land along the entire length of America's eastern shore line.

The truth is that sea and land have been foes since the beginning of time.

The "action" in portions of the Atlantic sector where the never-ending conflict rages most furiously is described by John Oliver La Gorce as follows:

Waves Undermine Nantucket's Cliffs

"Looking southward across the eastern entrance to Nantucket Sound, one sights Nantucket Island in the distance. On the south side of this island the retreat of the cliffs is often as much as six feet a year.

"Further to the west lies Marthas Vineyard, also an outpost of the land. Here there are rearing ramparts of rock a hundred feet high, but even they cannot entirely withstand the incessant attacks of the indomitable sea.

"To the southwest of Marthas Vineyard lies the desolate island of 'No Man's Land,' which is well worthy the name it bears. Gradually the sea is tearing away its vitals, and it is predicted that by the end of the present century it will disappear beneath the waves forever.

"On the south coast of Long Island we find beaches and shifting sands. Here we get into more hopeful territory, for the land always has an upbuilding Oliver for every down-tearing Roland the sea may have to offer. From Shinnecock Bay to Fire Island, a rampart of sand some 40 miles long has been thrown forward off the real shore-line, and the sea, pounding against this in its maddest fury, encounters a buffer that throws it back a helpless and exhausted foe. Moreover, the sea is compelled to surrender captive sands taken up elsewhere, and these are re-equipped and put into the front trenches of the island's south-shore defenses.

Sandy Hook Victory for Land Forces

"On the Jersey Coast, Sandy Hook stands out as an advance guard of the forces of the land, determined to cut through the line of communication of the sea in its drive into the Raritan Bay salient.

"When there is a deeply indented coast-line, the ocean currents paralleling the shores refuse to follow the indentation and cut straight across. Striking deeper water, they slow up and deliver from bondage the captive grains of sand which momentum has enabled them to carry along.

"Eventually these grains grow into a high submarine ridge, which holds up the onrushing waves and forces them to give up a sand toll as they pass. Having gained courage in its size, the ridge makes a sally from the surf and becomes a full-fledged spit, or hook.

"The Jersey coast is full of classic examples of the war between the land and the sea.

"At Long Branch one may watch the shifting fortunes of the battle. Here,

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big chain around his foot and anchors him safely to a tree. There is a terrific struggle by the wild elephant to get free once more, and this often lasts for hours. But even an elephant finds some bonds he cannot burst, and finally becomes reconciled to them.

Then the animal is left without a thing to eat for days, becoming famished and weak. Next it has to be taught that no effort it can put forth can circumvent the will of the trainer. Often the latter fastens a log chain about its neck and hitches a tame elephant at the other end. Sometimes the captives resist with such unconquerable determination that their necks are broken in the struggle. Others are so adamantine in their spirit of resistance that they fight for freedom to the bitter end and never yield to training.

But as soon as one yields it is treated gently, and it finds out that the way to elephantine happiness lies in accepting the keeper's will. In about a month it settles down patiently to the duty of being a good, trustworthy beast of burden.

Bulletin No. 2, April 23, 1923.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with an April, 1923, issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department
National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send ..... copies of the Geographic News Bulletin for the school year beginning with the issue of April 2, for class room use, to

Name.....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City ..... State .....

I am a teacher in ..... School ..... grade.

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription

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Alexandria, Egypt: City of Human Storms

CERTAIN cities have traits that persist. Occasional rioting in Alexandria, Egypt, seems only a latter-day echo of the tempestuous city where Caesar was mobbed, where Caracalla once slaughtered all youths old enough to bear arms, and the pagan beauty, Hypatia, fell victim to enraged rioters.

Though Alexandria may frequently be associated with disturbances, its influence is widely diffused in more significant ways.

The Londoner as he eats his breakfast eggs, the New Yorker as he strolls past Cleopatra's Needle in Central Park, the Philadelphian who sometimes rebels at the rigid checker-board street plan, the worshiper in a Christian church of any denomination—all owe something to the city which, in Cleopatra's time, was the commercial mistress of the Mediterranean.

Egyptian Eggs for London Tables

To explain: Until the war handicapped Mediterranean shipping Alexandria sent 80,000,000 eggs a year to London. It contributed one of its famous twin shafts of red granite to Central Park, New York, in 1881, the other one having been removed to London three years earlier.

Its streets are laid out in gridiron regularity, thus setting a pattern which was copied the occidental world over.

Finally Athanasius, known to churchmen as the "Father of Orthodoxy," fought in Alexandria his bitter theological battle with the Arians and set forth doctrines still embodied in the creeds of many denominations.

Tourists Adopt Skip-Stop Plan

Land at Alexandria today and you may catch a boat-train to press on to Cairo, as far to the southeast as Washington, D. C., is from Wilmington, Delaware. This practice of tourists, of ignoring a city of 2,300 years of history and a present population of some 400,000, became so general that, in 1912, hotel men urged that the boat-trains be taken off.

This neglect was not without reason. One does not go to the land of the pyramids to see a busy, modern port city with solid business blocks, shipping sugar, rice, grain and, normally, cotton.

But Alexandria has a charm. Arab guides will fight for the chance to conduct the visitor to the city's one important relic of its ancient glory—the so-called Pompey's Pillar. Standing on Alexandria's highest hill this red granite shaft beckons the incoming ships as does the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

"Leben" The French Pastry of City

The traveler who will defy the guides and forsake his guidebook will reap the reward of the adventurous when he happens upon a Greek pastry shop where "Leben" is to be had. This custard, made from water-buffalo milk, is highly

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in spite of the most elaborate system of breakwaters man has erected, the shoreline is being led captive inch by inch. But the prisoner sand does not remain in captivity. As it is being escorted back of the lines it makes a successful dash for liberty and rejoins other land units north and south of Long Branch and aids in a counter-attack in those neighborhoods.

"In the vicinity of Atlantic City the sea is ever striving to gain a foothold; but at present the best it can do is to force a shifting of land reserves from one side of a salient to another. In a few years it took off some 76 acres of ground from the neighborhood of Maine Avenue and forced most of it around to the lee of the point at Ohio and New Jersey avenues.

"If the sea in its warfare against the land sometimes ruins a haven of refuge, at other times it is compelled by the land to create such a haven. Off the Maryland-Virginia shore lies the long, barrier-like island of Assateague. Once the seaward southern point of this island was only a bare lip. Gradually, however, the land began to force the sea to give it sand, and with this it has built a fine hook behind which many a mariner seeks safety from the fierce nor'easters that sweep these coasts.

Wind Changes Sides

"When one comes to the Virginia capes and studies conditions there, it is found that in times past the sea had another ally, of which no mention has yet been made—subsidences. In a bygone age the Susquehanna, the Potomac, and the James rivers rolled in stately grandeur to the sea. Then there came a subsidence, and the sea rushed in through the reach between Capes Charles and Henry and overwhelmed the land in all that vast area we call Chesapeake Bay.

"The land has not always been without an ally to counter-balance this display of strength. Sometimes there come upheavals of the floor of the sea that drive the water into a retreat which often becomes a rout.

"From the Virginia capes southward, one may see the same forces at death grips that are found on the Jersey and other coasts. But neither at Cape Cod nor in Jersey will one behold to such advantage the role played by the wind, the Bolshevik of the land and sea war, as in the region of the kingly capes and in the vicinity of Hatteras. Now it boldly marshals its forces alongside those of the water and urges the attack with the utmost abandon. And now, repentant of that role, it steps in and helps the land erect great barriers of sand—dunes—against which the wildest sea, in its maddest moments charges in vain.

"Along the southeasternmost coast of Florida, from Cape Florida, which guards lovely Miami, on down to Key West, is the beautiful key region, where the coral polyps have established foundations upon which the land has been able to build first-line defenses that break up the assaults of the sea before they reach vital ground."

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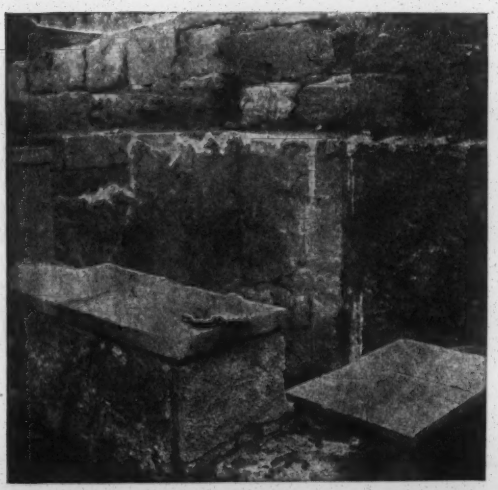
Invading the Prehistoric Time Line



A BATHROOM IN THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS

EXPLORERS are making forays across the "no man's lands" of history, taking trench after trench of the prehistoric, in many other places than Luxor.

Notable work is being carried on in the Holy Land, in Mesopotamia, in Egypt, in the Turkish Peninsula, and in Greece.

Among the most interesting of these remains are temples of Greek mythology. An Italian Mission has within the last two or three years brought to light ruins of an acropolis and a temple of the Pythian Apollo at Gortyna, the capital of Southern Crete, built at the foot of Mount Ida. In the interior of the temple stands a beautiful statue of Apollo as harp-player, which reminds one of the noble figure of the god, created by Greek sculptors in the fourth century, now to be seen in the Vatican. The ruins belong to that period of Cretan history when the island was rich and thickly populated.

Happy Hunting Ground of History Diggers

The party was still at work during the spring and summer of 1922 clearing and excavating the Agora or Market place, the temple and its surroundings, and a Byzantine church which had been built over the ruins of another temple, as well as the remains of many other interesting buildings which had been constructed at a later date. Crete has long been the happy hunting ground of explorers of the past, the ruins at Knossos being well known.

The Crown Prince of Sweden recently has been searching for treasures of ancient Greek ceramic art in the town of Asine in Laconia, which the Argives captured because it took the side of Sparta against Argos. As the temple of the Pythian Apollo was all they left of the city, the finds could not be startling or impressive. However, he uncovered may cremation graves of the early Iron Age and found vases covered with geometric patterns or quaint conventionalized animals.

At Epidaurus, on the Saronic Gulf in Argolis, excavation work has been going on since 1916. A basilica, or portico of a Greek temple, was discovered on the site of the little church of St. John, the central portion of the pavement

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esteemed by gourmets. Levantine women attired in latest Paris fashion, lend an exotic touch to the cafes.

No traces remain of the Pharos lighthouse, a wonder of the ancient world, nor of the famous library of 700,000 volumes deposited by the Ptolemies. The tradition of the Arab destruction of this library is discredited, but the story of Caliph Omar's edict, giving the reason for the destruction, will long be cited to illustrate a certain set of some human minds. After listening to a plea that the books be preserved, Omar, so runs the story, replied that if the books contained the Koran doctrines they were superfluous; if they disagreed, they were heretical. Hence, he argued, they should be destroyed in either case.

Bulletin No. 4, April 23, 1923.

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WHERE PRISONERS OF WAR ARE FORCED TO FIGHT THEIR BRETHREN

A typical sector near Highland Light, Massachusetts, where the sea enemy uses captured boulders, torn from cliffside defenses, as projectiles with which to batter down the ramparts. Note the prisoners "left upon the wire" at the beachline. For further pictures and text see "The Atlantic Seaboard: a Battle-ground of Nature" by John Oliver La Gorce, in "The National Geographic Magazine" for June, 1918.

of which was of mosaic. A small villa adjoining the basilica was paved with many fine mosaics.

Find Early Temple Form

Excavation work has been going on for years at Mycenae. Though much of its history dates from 1400 B. C., the city was evidently flourishing in 2000 B. C. Recently members of the British School at Mycenae removed part of the foundations of the Doric temple and discovered further remains that throw light upon the original form of the temple structure. Legend says that Mycenae was built by Perseus, and in the days of Homer was believed to be the home of Agamemnon.

A CRETAN MOUNTAINEER

Recently newspapers published accounts of the unearthing of an imposing temple at Rerras, Thessaly. The structure was in excellent preservation and was said to be as large as the temple of Jupiter at Olympia.

Olympia was a small plain in Elis bounded by the Rivers Alpheus and Claudius, in which the Olympic games were celebrated. The plain and its immediate neighborhood were adorned with numerous temples and statues. The most celebrated of these was the Olympium, largest temple in Greece and one of the largest in the ancient world. It contained that masterpiece, the colossal Zeus of Phidias.

One can only guess at the amount of treasures that the great temple at Delphi contained. The remains now standing of the structure built in the fourth century B. C., have braved many a cataclysm. The temple remained pagan. No Christian church was built on its foundations, as in the case of most Greek temples.